(ii) In principle approval for grant of non-plan loan of Rs. 414 crores to HCL during 1998-99 to 2001-2002, to reduce surplus workforce through Voluntray Retirement Scheme. Out of which Rs. 60 crores has been released during 1998-99 and Rs. 100 crores during 1999-2000. An additional amount of Rs. 40 crore has been provided in RE 1999-2000 for this purpose.

(iii) Government guarantee was provided to HCL ot raise a Working Capital Term loan of Rs. 75 crores from IDBI in August, 1999. Govt. has also agreed to extend its guarantee to enable the Company to raise a further loan of Rs. 75 crores from IDBI.

Coal Fields in Assam

705. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground-wise and opencast-wise coal fields operating in Assam;

(b) the calssifications of grading under which the coal of Assam falls;

(c) whether the quality of coal of Assam has been thoroughly examined by experts; if so, when;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps for upgrading the quality of coal through treatment; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) There are two coalfields operating in Assam under North Eastern Coalfields (NEC), a unit directly controlled by Coal India Limited. The Coal mines under the two coalfields are given below:—

(i) Makum coalfields, having following mines

Baragolai Colliery Underground
Ledo Colliery Underground
Tipong Colliery Underground
Tikak Colliery Opencast
Tirap Colliery Opencast

(ii) Jeypore Dilli Coalfields

Jeypore Dilli Mine Underground

(b) The Assam coal has been classified under the two grades as below:—

Grade	Useful Heat Value (Kilo Calorie / Kg)
A	6200 and above
b	5600-6199

(c) Yes Sir. While considering the feasibility report of establishing coal washeryt in NEC, the quality of Assam coal was examined thoroughly.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Global tenders were called to set up coal beneficiation plant at Tikak in Assam for supply of beneficiated coal to SAIL. SAIL had agreed to accept beneficiated coal earlier with Sulphur content within 2.5% On the basis of offer finalised for setting up washery, CIL had sought from SAIL acceptance of the beneficiated coal. But finally SAIL expressed their reluctance to accept the beneficiated coal on the ground of quality and high cost and therefore the tender was cancelled.

Loss incurred by CIL in Assam

706. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited is incurring loss from the coal fields of Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps for commercial viability of this Black Diamond; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether government have taken any steps for exploring new coal fields in Assam; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA: (a) Yes Sir, Coal India Limited is incurring loss from the coalfields of Assam. The loss of North Eastern